

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

June 18, 2025

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioner Ron Jacobs and Commissioner Jim Mendiola present. Members of the media, public and staff had the opportunity to join the meeting electronically or in-person. Present in the meeting room were Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois, IS (Information Services) Director Joshua Kreger, and Malheur County Fire Defense Chief Jess Tolman. Notice of the meeting was posted on the County website, Courthouse bulletin board and emailed to the Argus Observer and those persons who have requested notice. The agenda is recorded as instrument # 2025-2039

PUBLIC HEARING - RURAL RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Judge Joyce opened the hearing for consideration of re-designation of the Rural Renewable Energy Development Zone (RREDZ).

The County's current RREDZ was designated in January 2015. Re-designation is needed every ten years. The proposed RREDZ area is all of Malheur County (incorporated or not). Notice of the designation was sent to all taxing districts in the county. No comments from the taxing districts were received.

Judge Joyce asked for public comments. No public comments were received.

Judge Joyce closed the hearing.

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Resolution R25-18: Resolution by Governing Body of Malheur County to Sponsor a Rural Renewable Energy Development Zone. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The resolution will be forwarded to Oregon Business Development Department. See instrument# 2025-2040

BURN BAN

Malheur County Fire Defense Chief Jess Tolman met with the Court regarding implementing a burn ban. Mr. Tolman explained that Oregon declared two conflagration fires in June; and Payette and Washington, Idaho counties have implemented burn bans. Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Order GO-05-25: Order Prohibiting Outdoor Open Burning in Unincorporated Areas of Malheur County Located Outside of a Fire District. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Effective date is June 18, 2025. See instrument # 2025-2041

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of June 11, 2025 as written. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

BULLY CREEK PARK

Commissioner Jacobs explained that he and Mr. Kreger have been working to implement an online reservation process for camping at Bully Creek Park. Additionally, increasing the fees at the park should be considered in the future. There is a good possibility that by next season camping at the park may only be accomplished through the online system (with the exception of possibly having a camp host assist with onsite camping fee collection if spaces are available). Consensus of the Court was to move forward with implementation of online camping reservations.

Mr. Kreger left the meeting.

CONTRACT - ANI-CARE

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Contract with Ani-Care Animal Shelter, Inc. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ani-Care will provide a shelter for dogs, to include maintenance and care of dogs according to Oregon law. The shelter is primarily for abandoned or stray dogs located within the boundaries of Malheur County; excluding owner surrender or city limits (as cities have a separate contract with Ani-Care). Ani-Care is not responsible for the initial capture and transportation of an abandoned or stray dog(s). Financial consideration is \$4,103.90 per month; the contract expires June 30, 2026. See instrument # 2025-2042

Mr. Tolman left the meeting.

WARMSPRINGS IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Commissioner Jacobs moved to sign a letter of support for Warm Springs Irrigation District's pipeline project. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument # 2025-2043

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET RESOLUTION

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Supplemental Budget Resolution R25-19: In the Matter of Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Supplemental Budget by Resolution Under Local Budget Law ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) 294.471. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The purpose of the supplemental budget is to allocate additional grant funds in the Health Department that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted – these funds are to be used for purposes as set out in the grant agreements; and to allocate additional grant funds in the Fair Fund that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted – these funds are to be used to outfit facilities at the fairgrounds to serve as a Resilience Hub. See instrument #2025-2044

ONTARIO SANITARY SERVICE/ WASTE CONNECTIONS - PROPOSED RATE INCREASE

Ontario Sanitary Service District Manager Travis Williams met with the Court and discussed a proposed rate increase of 3%. The proposed increase is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the state of Oregon and would get the pricing in the County in line with the rest of Ontario Sanitary's service area. Waste Connections has invested over \$750,000 in operations over the last

year to assure a high level of service to customers in Malheur county. The Court requested a hearing to take public comment on the proposed rate increase be scheduled. See instrument # 2025-2045 for the written request.

FAIR BOARD APPOINTMENT

Commissioner Mendiola moved to appoint Jacqueline Heid (current advisory board member) to the Fair Board as a voting member. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Heid fills the vacant position previously held by Chris Johnston.

Judge Joyce closed the County Court session and opened the Ambulance Service District session.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICT (ASD) SESSION

The Court met as the governing body of the Ambulance Service District (ASD) and discussed the request from Treasure Valley Paramedics (TVP) for Vehicle Replacement Funds. Interim ASD Coordinator Rich Harriman was present electronically. TVP has requested \$28,829.91 to repair the engine and inverter for ambulance M4. The ambulance is currently out of service due to the motor going out. Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve TVP's request for Vehicle Replacement Funds for TVP in the amount of \$28,829.91 (in Fiscal Year 2025/2026 and not subject to execution of a repayment plan agreement for back dispatch fees) to repair the engine and inverter for ambulance M4. Commissioner Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Judge Joyce closed the ASD session and reopened the County Court session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Joyce asked for public comments; there were none.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jacobs moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.